coverage has been raised from Rs. 5000/- to Rs. 6500/- per month under the Employees Provident Fund & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 with effect from 1-6-2001. As the wage ceiling was raised with effect from 1-6-2001, it is too early to assess the number of employees likely to benefited.

Trade Unions objection against second generation economic reforms

4222. SHRI R. S. GAVAI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state : (a) whether the Trade Unions are having objections against recently introduced second generation economic reforms;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) Government's reaction thereon;

(d) whether Government are aware of the action plan of the Trade Unions against implementation of these reforms; and

(e) if so, the preparations made to counter the actions of Trade Unions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT : (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (c) The Trade Unions have from time to time observed strikes/bandhs and launched protests and demonstrations against the initiatives proposed to be taken by the Government to usher a Second Generation of economic reforms as well as implementation of the existing policy of disinvestment and privatisation. Some of the recent protests in this regard include Nation-wide two hour tool down strike on 16-4-2001, Maharashtra Bandh on 25-4-2001, Nation-wide strike by the Confederation of Central Government Employees and workers and All India State Government Employees Federation on 25-7-2001 and demonstration of the Joint Action Committee of nine Central Trade Unions and Federarion/Association of Delhi State on 24-7-2001. The Government is of the view that the gains from economic reforms initiated in the [illegible]ities need to be carried forward and reinforced through new policy [illegible]ves. The Government is also fully conscious of the need to protect the interest of the workers during the reform process. The steps taken by the Government recently to protect the interest of workers include raising of the wage ceiling unit under EPF and M.P. Act, expansion of the ESI scheme in new areas, enhancement of the minimum amount of compensation payable under the Workmen Compensation Act, etc. A new scheme entitled "Ashraya Bima Yojana" has been announced for extending security cover to organised labour force affected by the on-going reforms. In addition to these measures, the Second

National Labour Commission has been constituted to suggest rationalisation of labour laws in the organised sector and an umbrella legislation for the unorganised sector.

(d) and (e) The Government has not received any future action plan of the Trade Unions against implementation of these reforms. However, as and when a strike notice is received, the Government holds conciliation proceedings and make all efforts to resolve the dispute amicably.

Enforcement of I.D. Act

†4223. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Deputy Commissioner (Labour), Curzon Road, New Delhi has not been able to implement I.D. Act, 1947 in Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd.;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that General Secretary, Bhartiya Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Karamchari Union has also filed a law suit for implementation of I.D. Act, 1947; and

(c) if so, by when; the decision in the law-suit and I.D. Act, 1947 would be implemented in M.T.N.L.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT : (SHRI MUNI LALI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) A petition has been filed and a dispute has been raised by the Bhartiya Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Karamchari Union in the office of the Regional Labour Commissioner (C), Delhi. It has been reported that while the hearing on the petition has been completed, the hearing on the dispute has been adjourned to a future date.

Adoption of new sets of safety standards

4224. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the International Labour Conference in its 89th Session in Geneva has, recently, adopted a new set of safety standards for protecting world agricultural workers;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.